

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 220905Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1124

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 1449

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP EAIR QA

SUBJ: DOHA AIRPORT PROJECT

REF: A) DOHA 1306; B) DOHA 1285

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY. OFFICIALS AT GOQ MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (MPW) HAVE INFORMED US OF GOQ DECISION TO REQUEST NEW DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR DOHA AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING FROM FOUR FIRMS (TWO US). ACTION IS TAKEN IN SPITE OF RECOMMENDATION BY AIRPORT STUDY COMMITTEE THAT GIBB-PETERMULLER DESIGN BE RETAINED (REF B) AND WILL FURTHER DELAY PROJECT. OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT DECISION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN GOQ WILL REJECT ORIGINAL DESIGN AND STATED GIBB-PETERMULLER ALSO BEING ASKED TO PREPARE NEW DESIGN. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCES AT MPW HAVE TOLD US THAT MINISTRY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED BY AMIR TO OBTAIN ALTERNATIVE DESIGN PROPOSALS FOR DOHA AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING. FOUR FIRMS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN - TIPPETTS, ABBETT, MCCARTHY, STRATTON OF NEW YORK AND RICHARDSON ASSOCIATES OF SEATTLE. PRIOR TO PREPARING DESIGNS, FIRM REPS WILL BE INVITED TO DOHA AT MPW EXPENSE TO SURVEY SITE, STUDY PRESENT DESIGN AND MEET WITH CONCERNED GOQ OFFICIALS. ORIGINAL ARCHITECTS, GIBB-PETERMULLER, WILL ALSO HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO PRODUCE NEW DESIGN.

3. DECISION TO CALL FOR FRESH DESIGN RUNS COUNTER TO RECOMMENDATIONS BY AIRPORT STUDY COMMITTEE THAT GIBB-PETERMULLER PLANS BE
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RETAINED WITH SOME MODIFICATIONS. OFFICIAL AT MPW SAID IT WOULD

PROBABLY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS TO GET REPS FROM ALL FOUR FIRMS
TO DOHA ANDHMNLY AFTER THIS HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED CAN A DATE
BE SET FOR DESIGN SUBMISSIONS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. OFFICIAL SAID "AMIR IS VERY CONFUSED"
BY SITUATION AND HAS CALLED FOR OTHER DESIGNS IN ORDER TO HAVE
BASIS FOR COMPARISON. OFFICIAL NOTED THAT AMIR IS KEEPING HIS
OPTIONS OPEN AND COULD ULTIMATELY SELECT PRESENT GIBB-
PETERMULLER DESIGN INSTEAD OF ONE OF NEW EFFORTS. HE POINTED
OUT THAT IMMEDIATE RESULT OF LATEST MOVE WILL BE FURTHER DELAY
OF PROJECT FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS. IF NEW DESIGN IS SELECTED,
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WILL HAVE TO BE RE-TENDERED, PUTTING AIR-
PORT LITERALLY YEARS BEHIND SCHEDULE.

5. COMMENT: REF A REPORTED SPLIT IN GOQ OVER AIRPORT DESIGN
IN WAKE OF STUDY GROUP MEETING WITH MPW FAVORING RETENTION OF
GIBB-PETERMULLER WHILE AMIR'S TECHNICAL ADVISOR TOLD US HE
FELT ORIGINAL PLAN SHOULD BE SCRAPPED. IN VIEW OF DECISION
TO CALL FOR NEW DESIGNS, APPEARS THAT TECHNICAL ADVISOR,
HISHAM QADDUMI HAS WON THIS ROUND. HOWEVER, FACT THAT SELECTION
OF FIRMS TO FURNISH NEW DESIGNS AND OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY
FOR COORDINATING THIS PHASE IS IN HANDS OF MPW INDICATE EFFORT
HAS BEEN MADE TO STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN TWO GROUPS. END CONFIDENTIAL
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